

Weeks as War Head Satisfies The 'Oligarchy'

Appointment of Ex-Senator to Cabinet, Now Regarded Certain, Fulfills Campaign Predictions of Democrats

He Wanted Another Job

Harding Said to Have Acted Only on Urgent Plea of Republican Colleagues

By Carter Field

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—The appointment of John W. Weeks as Secretary of War in the Harding Cabinet—and it is generally accepted here that this will be the case—will be regarded as at least one instance of the "Senate oligarchy," as the Democrats called it during the campaign, getting what it wanted.

Every one of the Republican Senators whose name was mentioned by Democratic orators prior to November 2 as of the group which had dominated the Chicago convention and nominated Warren G. Harding, was for Weeks for War Secretary.

A curious phrase of the whole situation is that Senator Harding wanted Mr. Weeks to be Secretary of the Navy, and Mr. Weeks wanted to be Secretary of the Treasury. So this is really a remarkable case of the "oligarchy" getting what it wanted, and neither Harding nor Weeks being entirely satisfied.

Weeks Strongly Indorsed
Man after man regarded as belonging to this oligarchy went out to meet and urged the President-elect to put Mr. Weeks in charge of the War Department. Mr. Harding explained to several of them that he did not think Mr. Weeks wanted to go into either of the service departments. But the Senators insisted that Mr. Weeks' objections to the Navy Department would not apply to War Department, and that he would make an ideal Secretary.

The Massachusetts man was constantly in Mr. Harding's mind in connection with the Navy Department, because he knew Mr. Weeks was a graduate of Annapolis and because in his contacts with Mr. Weeks in the Senate he had always found him keenly interested in the navy.

As a matter of fact, Senator Weeks would have been assigned to the Naval Affairs Committee on his entry in the upper house, especially as he had taken such an interest in naval affairs while a member of the House of Representatives; had it not been that his colleague, Senator Lodge, was already on that committee, and in such a high place on it that he could not be the conference committee between the two houses.

Mr. Lodge about that time came as near to resigning the Naval Affairs Committee, due to the illness of the then chairman, Benjamin R. Tillman, and to the fact that Senator Swanson, of Virginia, the ranking Democratic member, agreed as nearly with Mr. Lodge's forceful naval policies, as it is possible for a member of a minority party ever to do.

Wadsworth Stepped in
So Mr. Weeks was assigned to the Military Affairs Committee, and has in connection with his work on that committee, to a very large extent, that the high admiration of his colleagues had its beginning. Mr. Weeks would have been chairman of the Military Affairs Committee in the Congress elected in 1918, when the Republicans were returned to control, had it not been that he was defeated at the polls by Senator David I. Walsh.

This, and other political casualties brought about the remarkable situation of a first-term Senator, James W. Wadsworth, Jr., of New York, becoming chairman of the Military Committee.

Prior to that Weeks and Wadsworth were the two members of the committee who did the most work in support of Chairman George E. Chamberlain when President Wilson attacked Chamberlain for daring to criticize Secretary of War Baker and the fall-down of the War Department. It was this vigorous work by Chamberlain and Hittchcock, on the Democratic side, and Wadsworth and Weeks, on the Republican side, which forced the appointment of an entire reorganization of the War Department, the bringing in of General Goethals and other steps which led to largely increased efficiency in getting supplies to the American soldiers in France and in getting more soldiers overseas.

Another point which has commended

Mr. Weeks for Secretary of War to his colleagues is the fact that they admire his ability as a business man, and they have been greatly agitated by what they regard as the stupid waste of money by the War Department in the last year, simply, as they look at it, from lack of ordinary common business sense.

Hundreds of millions of dollars would have been saved to the government, many Senators and members of the House are convinced, if a real business man had administered the War Department and been permitted to take charge of the sale of war materials since the armistice.

While the names of several high army officers, notably Generals Wood, Pershing and Clarence Edwards, have been mentioned in connection with the portfolio of War, every single member of the so-called Senate oligarchy has been opposed to the appointment of an army officer for Secretary of War or a naval officer as Secretary of the Navy.

Harding Rejoices Over Founding of Town Hall

Telegram of Congratulation Informs Work to Aid in Government by Co-operation

Abram I. Elkus, who presided last night at the second meeting of the opening week of the Town Hall, 113 West Forty-third Street, read the following telegram from President-elect Harding: "Congratulations to the citizens of New York upon the establishment of the Town Hall as a great civic center for the cultivation of civic virtues, the development of sound thinking on public questions and cooperation with your government in city, state and nation for the promotion of social welfare. It is particularly fitting that the cradle of the city, which results from twenty-five years' work of such organizations as the League for Political Education, the Economic Club and the Civic Forum, should be the Town Hall, composed of men and women without regard to creed or politics and representing every section of our great Republic and its national life as expressed in art, letters, science, civics and philanthropy."

"I hope to see better coordinated the social welfare activities of our national government and look forward with great hopes to the service which private agencies such as your Town Hall group of organizations may render in cooperation with the government through the development of a self-reliant spirit and an intelligent public opinion which does not look to the government to do everything, but which shall enable governments to do their part more effectively because of courageous, plain and sturdy thinking men and women are doing their civic duty in New York and in every city, town or hamlet throughout the country."

Government Help Asked By Ship-by-Air Booster

Express Official Tells Automotive Engineers Commercial Aviation Is Needed

At a dinner given by the Society of Automotive Engineers at the Astor last night, R. E. M. Cowie, vice-president of the American Railway Express Company, urged the adoption of an aggressive policy by the government in the development of commercial aviation, which he declared to be worthy of as much support as navigation.

Mr. Cowie said commercial aviation would, in case of another war, prove to be as great an aid as the motor industry had proved recently.

"I regard as very unfortunate the lethargic attitude of the government toward this subject," said Mr. Cowie. "While I do not wish to go on record regarding a separate air service, yet as a transportation man of experience I wish to emphasize the necessity for the immediate encouragement of commercial aviation."

George E. Roberts, vice-president of the National City Bank of New York, spoke on the industrial situation and dwelt on the possibility of engineering skill reducing the cost of all manufactured articles and assisting in restoring the needed business balance.

Other speakers were J. G. Vincent, the retiring president, vice-president of the Packard Automobile Company; David Beacraft, the incoming president, editor of The Automotive Industry, and C. F. Kettering, of the research department of the General Motors Company.

Press of India Welcomes Lord Reading's Appointment
LONDON, Jan. 13 (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).—The entire press of India, including that of the Nationalists, warmly welcomes the appointment of Lord Reading as Viceroy of India, says a dispatch from India today.

The newspapers editorially express confidence that Lord Reading will succeed in bringing peace and prosperity to the country.

Measure to Cut Army Gives Way To Nitrate Bill

Senate Expected to Adopt Plan for Force of 150,000 or 175,000; Muscle Shoals Backers Try to Force Vote

From The Tribune's Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Senator Underwood, Democratic leader of the Senate, backed by other Democrats and several Republicans, today blocked final action on the New resolution to stop enlistments in the army. They took this course because of their purpose to force a vote on the nitrate bill with the least possible delay.

Halting of the New resolution, however, is only temporary and it is expected to pass in a day or two with the support of almost the entire Senate. The chief question with respect to it is whether it will provide for stopping of enlistments until the army is reduced to 175,000, as the Military Affairs Committee recommended it, or will provide for reduction to 150,000. Senator Lenroot has an amendment pending, which was discussed at length today, making the figure 150,000. The Lenroot amendment has strong support from Senators New, author of the resolution, and Senator Wadsworth, chairman of the Military Committee, are against it.

Had the New resolution not become tangled up with the nitrate bill this afternoon, the Senate probably would have passed it. The nitrate bill, which involves development of water power at Muscle Shoals, Ala., is the unfinished business fact that the War Department lately has been enlisting men at the rate of more than 2,000 a day, and that it is conservatively estimated the cost of an enlisted man is \$1,000 a year. The men now being enlisted will serve their terms of enlistment, since the resolution would simply stop further enlistments until the army goes down to 175,000.

Senator Wadsworth, of Tennessee, a member of the Military Affairs Committee, opened the debate on the New measure by advocating the Lenroot amendment. "It would take until September to reduce the army to 175,000, and it would take until next January to reduce the army to 150,000," he said. "Senator Borah thought that it made no difference if war came whether the country had 175,000 or 150,000. Either figure would then be inadequate, and hence he could see no good reason for opposing the Lenroot amendment."

Senator Wadsworth explained there were seven combat divisions in the United States. The reduction to 175,000 would make two of them paper divisions and the reduction to 150,000 would make four of them paper divisions, leaving but three combat divisions.

Senator Wadsworth said he did not anticipate war with a foreign power, but he thought 150,000 too low, and Senator New agreed.

Senator Warren, of Wyoming, former chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, opposed the cut to 150,000. Senator John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, made a long speech in favor of it and said he would vote to cut the number to 100,000.

"The whole world needs an example of self-confidence and lack of distrust and lack of suspicion," said Senator Williams. "It is not necessary for us to have the biggest army or navy in the world."

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Women Electors to Go To Capital in Plane

LINCOLN, Neb. Jan. 13.—Mrs. H. H. Wheeler, of Lincoln, and Mrs. Draper Smith, of Omaha, delegate and alternate named to carry the Nebraska Electoral vote to Washington, announced today they had accepted the offer of an airplane and pilot from an Omaha newspaper, and would make the trip by air, starting from Omaha next Tuesday.

Plucky Girl, Aided by Two Men, Seizes Burglar

Catching Thief in Act, She Attacks Him and Then Calls for Help

Miss Edith Ward, who lives with her mother, Mrs. Joseph E. Ward, at 155 West 117th Street, brought about the capture of an intruder in her mother's apartment last night and caused the arrest of a man who described himself as Charles Leonard, thirty-one years old, an electrician, of 28 West Sixty-first Street, on a charge of burglary.

Leonard, the police charge, first looked the room of Miss Helen Burnett Howell, a graduate nurse, and was about to clean out Miss Ward's room when she saw him. She had just returned from a theater with a friend, N. Norman, who is stopping at the Pennsylvania Hotel, when she saw smoke in her mother's apartment. She ran into the room, saw Leonard and attacked him, calling upon Norman to assist her. Miss Ward and Norman struggled with Leonard, the police said, until they forced open the door of another roomer, David G. Casem, a newspaper man, who was a lieutenant in the Signal Corps during the war, awoke and subdued Leonard with a revolver while Miss Ward telephoned to the police. A graduation pin belonging to Miss Howell was found in Leonard's pocket, the police said.

Astor, Candidate Of Government, Beaten in Dover

Election Result Regarded as New Protest of English Against High Cost of Policies of Lloyd George

From The Tribune's European Bureau

LONDON, Jan. 13.—The Lloyd George government suffered a serious political reverse today in the bye-election in the Dover division of Kent, where the opposition candidate, Sir Thomas Polson, whose platform called for drastic national economy, defeated the Coalition representative, Major John Jacob Astor, by 3,130 votes. At the general election three years ago in Dover the government's candidate had a majority of more than 6,000.

The results of the Dover election, which was held to fill the seat made vacant by the admission of Lord Duncannon to the House of Lords, stood: Polson, 13,947; Astor, 10,817. Major Astor is a younger brother of Viscount Astor.

Today's defeat for the government, together with the announcement yesterday that the coalition candidate in the Hereford bye-election won his seat with 5,000 fewer votes than his predecessor had, shows how determined the country is for a reduction in government expenditures. Observers believe that the government will be unable to ignore this tide of dissatisfaction when Parliament meets again next month.

LONDON, Jan. 13 (By The Associated Press).—Sir Thomas Polson said tonight that he interpreted the vote as a warning to the government "to cease its spendthrift policy." Lord Rothermere, who for a long time has been conducting a campaign in favor of retrenchment, declared that there was not a single Conservative seat in South England safe for the government.

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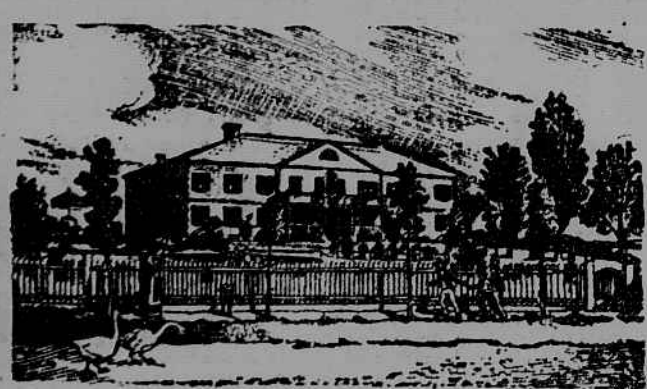
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